

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Serial No. 10/077,930
Sughrue Ref: Q68634

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for foreign priority and confirming receipt of the priority document. Applicant further thanks the Examiner for initialing and considering the references listed on the PTO/SB/08 form submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement on February 2, 2002.

Claims 1-8 are all of the pending claims. Claim 3 has been withdrawn from consideration because it is not being directed to the previously elected Species of Figs. 10-12. Claim 1 is the only pending independent claim. New dependent claim 9 has been added.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly clearly anticipated by Buschei (1,071,875). Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection at least because Buschei does not teach or suggest all of the recitations of amended independent claim 1. The amendments to claim 1 are fully supported in the original specification at least by page 12, line 9- page 13, line 4.

For example, Buschei does not teach or suggest the claimed jetting apparatus having an inclined face connected to said passage; a liquid supply portion provided adjacent to said inclined face, said liquid supply portion having liquid injection ports being provided in correspondence with said divided sub-passages and a tapered portion located inside said inclined face; and a gas passage defined between said tapered portion and said inclined face for supplying the gas to said passage of which a sectional area is reduced toward the passage.

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Buschei teaches a gas purifying apparatus in which fluid is supplied into chamber A2 by tubular nozzle parts H. Gas is supplied into the chamber A2 by an open end A'. It appears that the Examiner considers the nozzles C as corresponding to the claimed "sub-passages" and considers the portions of the wall of the chamber A2 between the openings A3 as corresponding to the claimed "at least one partition." Buschei at Fig. 1.

However, Buschei merely shows gas generally supplied to the chamber A2 by an open end A2. The supply of gas cannot be considered the recited "gas passage defined between said tapered portion and said inclined face for supplying the gas to said passage of which a sectional area is reduced toward the passage."

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of independent claim 1 for the reasons discussed above, and the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7 at least because of their dependency from claim 1.

Claim 6

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Buschei in view of any one of Darby et al. (US 3,881,898), Popov (US 4,014,961), and Bloch (4,880,447). Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw this rejection at least because of claim 6's dependency from claim 1, and because these references do not teach or suggest a gas passage in which the sectional area is gradually decreased toward a supply port for supplying gas into the passage. Instead, the sectional area of the features identified by the Examiner as gas passages increase.

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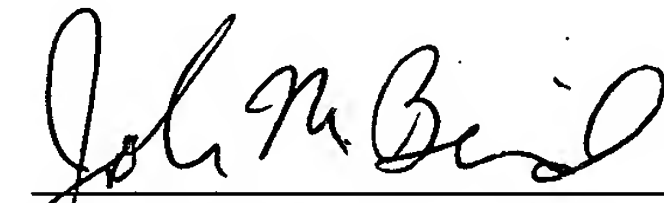
New Claim

Applicant has added new dependent claim 9. This claim is fully supported by the non-limiting embodiment shown in Figs. 1, 2, and 10 and the description thereof. Applicant respectfully submits that this claim is allowable at least because of its dependency from independent claim 1.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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